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Croatia

Livestock and Products

Croatia-Hungary BSE Row

2003

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Report Highlights:

The pressure on Croatia to loosen its BSE related import requirements is getting stronger. On December 9, Hungary announced it would raise its tariffs for 10 to 15 Croatian processed food products from the Hungarian-Croatian Free Trade Agreement (FTA) level to the Most Favored Nation (MFN) level. This move was done in response to a six-month dispute over Croatia's BSE import legislation. This legislation has become a source of disagreement with many countries including the United States where it restricts pork and pet food exports.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[HR]

On December 9, Hungary announced it would raise its tariffs for 10 to 15 Croatian processed food products from the Hungarian-Croatian Free Trade Agreement (FTA) level to the Most Favored Nation (MFN) level. This move was done in response to a six-month dispute over Croatia's Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) import legislation. This legislation has become a source of disagreement with many countries including the United States where it restricts pork and pet food imports.

At present, Croatia bans the import of live cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, fish, and meat products from these animals, from countries that are in Geographical Risk of BSE (category I and II). This ban is not applied on shipments from countries that can provide a statement that the animals were not fed with proteins of animal origin (i.e., bone meal). Croatia banned the practice of using bone meal feed for all livestock three years ago, whereas Hungary (like the United States.) at first only banned the use of bone meal for ruminants when BSE first broke out in Europe. The U.S. and other countries argue that there is little risk in using bone meal to feed animals that do not contract BSE-like diseases.

The pressure on Croatia to loosen its BSE related import requirements is getting stronger. The EU Commission's Board for Consumers demanded that Croatia lift its ban on beef imports from countries that had only a few cases of BSE. In addition, Slovenia has protested because they are not allowed to export beef to Croatia although the EU Commission has recognized Slovenia as safe.